

April 6, 1967

The Honorable Peter W. Rodino, Jr.
The House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rodino:

We in Free Europe, Inc., and Radio Free Europe are most appreciative of your continued interest and efforts in behalf of your bill to enable certain long-standing employees of RFE serving abroad to obtain U.S. citizenship.

Speaking in behalf of the senior management and executive staff of Free Europe, Inc., as well as the key employees concerned, we are anxious to do anything we can that might be appropriate to assist in furthering the progress of your proposed bill. Its passage means a great deal to continued operational effectiveness of RFE by helping to ensure the retention of these key employees who are exiles from their east European homelands.

We feel that passage of your bill this year is important. Because of their strong motivation, many of the highly deserving employees concerned have continued at RFE's request their employment overseas despite the urgency of their wishes to become U.S. citizens. Meanwhile they are deprived of the benefits U.S. citizenship would bring, especially critical for their children. Year after year our people have clung to the hope that legislative action would solve their dilemma by finding a way for them to count the years spent at RFE in Munich in completing their residence requirements for U.S. citizenship. But as the years go by they continue to remain stateless, and family pressures to leave RFE and return to the U.S. grow more severe each year.

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If any further information is needed, we will gladly furnish it. If anyone on our management staff, or any of our employees for whom we are seeking citizenship, could be of any assistance by coming to Washington to meet with any members of the Committee, we stand ready and willing to do so.

Once again, permit me to express our great thanks and appreciation to you for the work you are doing in behalf of these outstanding people who are devoted to America and have so fully demonstrated it over the years. With kindest personal regards and high respect,

Sincerely,

C. Rodney Smith
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
Vice-President

CRS:cb